



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BELTON 'HEAD SHOP' OWNERS INDICTED FOR SELLING DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the husband and wife co-owners were indicted by a federal grand jury today for selling drug paraphernalia from their Belton, Mo., store.

Michelle R. VanTrump, 33, and **Kevin J. VanTrump**, 35, both of Peculiar, Mo., were charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. They are the co-owners of Bizarre Boutique, 320 Main Street in Belton.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that the **VanTrumps** conspired to sell drug paraphernalia – glass and plastic water pipes – from Dec. 14, 2001, to May 7, 2003.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment alleges that the **VanTrumps** sold glass and plastic water pipes on two separate occasions, on May 2, 2003 and on May 7, 2003.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine A. Connelly. It was investigated by the Belton, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow